

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-8: (canceled)

9. (currently amended) An apparatus comprising a mud motor having a tubular outer housing, said tubular outer housing having a through bore substantially along a longitudinal axis thereof and an interior surface and an exterior surface, said tubular outer housing of said mud motor comprising a receiving pocket in the exterior surface sized to receive a sonde, and a cover plate removably attached to the outer housing over the receiving pocket, wherein the cover plate further includes at least one slot to allow the passage of electromagnetic signals from the sonde, said slot including a filling of non-metallic material.

10. (currently amended) Apparatus of claim 9, further comprising a shock resistant holder for the sonde shaped to be received in the receiving pocket, ~~and a cover plate, removably attached to the outer housing over the receiving pocket, said cover plate~~ functioning to hold the sonde and shock resistant holder in place.

11. (previously presented) Apparatus of claim 10, further comprising a sonde placed in the shock resistant holder.

12. (currently amended) Apparatus of claim ~~[[10]]~~ 9, ~~wherein the cover plate further includes at least one longitudinal~~ said slot being oriented in a longitudinal direction relative to the longitudinal axis of the tubular outer housing to allow the passage of electromagnetic signals from the sonde.

13. (canceled)

14. (currently amended) Apparatus comprising a mud motor having a tubular outer housing, ~~said tubular outer housing~~ having an exterior diameter, said tubular outer housing further including a cavity therein shaped to hold a mount for a sonde within the exterior diameter of the housing, a lip formed around the cavity, and a removable cover plate set in the lip, said mount comprising an elastomeric sarcophagus shaped to hold said sonde.

15. (canceled)

16. (currently amended) ~~The tubular outer housing~~ Apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a sonde set in the elastomeric sarcophagus.

17. (previously presented) Apparatus comprising a mud motor having a tubular outer housing, said tubular outer housing having a through bore substantially along a longitudinal axis thereof, an interior surface and an exterior surface, said tubular outer housing comprising a collar having an interior surface and an exterior surface removably attached at the inner surface of the collar to the outer surface of the tubular outer housing, a receiving pocket in the exterior surface of the collar shaped to receive a sonde, a shock resistant holder for the sonde shaped to set in the receiving pocket, and a cover plate, removably attached to the collar over the receiving pocket, functioning to hold the sonde and shock resistant holder in place.

18. (currently amended) Apparatus for well drilling comprising a mud motor having a bit box, a bearing mandrel and a coupler disposed therebetween, said coupler comprising a through bore substantially along a longitudinal axis of the coupler, said coupler having an interior surface and an exterior surface, ~~[[and]]~~ a receiving pocket in the exterior surface shaped to receive a sonde, and a cover plate removably attached to the coupler over the receiving pocket, wherein the cover plate further includes at least one slot to allow the passage of electromagnetic signals from the sonde, said slot including a filling of non-metallic material.

19. (currently amended) ~~The coupler~~ Apparatus of claim 18, further comprising a shock resistant holder for the sonde shaped to set in the receiving pocket, ~~and a cover plate, removably attached to the coupler over the receiving pocket, said cover plate~~ functioning to hold the sonde and shock resistant holder in place.

20. (currently amended) In an entrenching powering device having an exterior wall of a housing, an improvement comprising a sonde mounted in a pocket formed in the housing, the exterior wall having at least one slot therein to allow the passage of electromagnetic signals from the sonde, said slot including a filling of non-metallic material.

21. (currently amended) The entrenching powering device of claim 20, further comprising ~~the sonde mounted in~~ a shock resistant holder set in the pocket, said sonde being mounted in said shock resistant holder.

22. (currently amended) The entrenching powering device of claim ~~[[21]]~~ 20, further comprising a removable cover mounted over the pocket, said slot being provided in said removable cover.